

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7059

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USUN NEW YORK 437

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 MONTEVIDEO 2745

FROM U.S. DELEGATION TO FAO CONFERENCE

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, FAO, ECLA, OCON

SUBJECT: CEPAL/FAO TECHNICAL MEETING ON RURAL SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN LATIN AMERICA, MONTEVIDEO, AUGUST 9-11, 1978

1. SUMMARY. MEETING ATTENDED BY FIFTEEN COUNTRIES AND OBSERVERS INCLUDED WELL-RECEIVED INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS ON SUBJECT OF MEETING BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CEPAL (ECLA) AND FAO DG'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOLLOWED BY BRIEF DISCUSSIONS CONSISTING MOSTLY OF COUNTRY STATEMENTS OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEEDS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT. ARGENTINA REJECTED CEPAL/FAO BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS. FAO REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S STATEMENT ON RELEVANT ASPECTS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, DELIVERED AT END OF DISCUSSION PERIOD, WAS NOT DISCUSSED. REPORT ADOPTED FOR PRESENTATION TO FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE INCLUDED SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, WITH ARGENTINA'S STATEMENT ANNEXED. END SUMMARY.

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2. SUBJECT MEETING IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND WAS ATTENDED BY 15 COUNTRIES AND OBSERVERS FROM HOLY SEE AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. OFFICERS ELECTED WERE: WALTER ARIAS (URUGUAY), CHAIRMAN; MIGUEL REYES (COLOMBIA), VICE-CHAIRMAN; AND MIGUEL ANGEL CUADRA (MEXICO), RAPPORTEUR. DRAFTING GROUP WAS CHAIRED BY RAPPORTEUR AND INCLUDED

ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, CDOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR,
BRAZIL, GUATEMALA, AND URUGUAY.

3. ENRIQUE IGLESIAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CEPAL (ECLA) OPENED CONFERENCE SESSION WITH A WELL ARTICULATED EVALUATION OF EVOLUTION IN LATIN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE DURING THE LAST TWO DECADES. MAJOR POINTS MADE FOLLOW: LATIN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN HIGHLY DUALISTIC IN NATURE. ON THE ONE HAND A MODERN SECTOR WHICH HAS BEEN VERY DYNAMIC IN RESPONDING TO STIMULUS. THREE MAJOR FACTORS CAN BE DISCERNED: 1) A NEW BREED OF MODERN AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURS; 2) THE VERY POSITIVE ROLE OF MULTINATIONALS IN INCREASING AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS; AND 3) A LARGE NEW CLASS OF RURAL WAGE EARNERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, MILLIONS OF PEASANTS HAVE REMAINED IN POVERTY AND RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT HAS INCREASED. TRADITIONAL EXPLANATIONS WHICH HAVE FOCUSED RESPECTIVELY ON LAND TENURE STRUCTURE, INSUFFICIENCY OF OVERALL DEMAND AND LOW SUPPLY ELASTICITY AS SINGLE MAJOR CAUSES OF LACK OF PROGRESS HAVE PROVEN INADEQUATE. SLOW RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS TOO COMPLEX A PROBLEM TO BE EXPLAINED BY SINGLE CAUSES. A MORE COMPREHENSIVE VIEW IS REQUIRED THAT LOOKS AT MANY VARIABLES CONCURRENTLY. AFTER DISCUSSING SEVERAL INDICATORS OF LATIN AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS, IGLESIAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL POINTS WHICH HE SUGGESTED SHOULD BE REFLECTED UPON BY THE MEMBER COUNTRIES:
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1) ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENTS (ESPECIALLY REGARDING DECISION MAKING AND CONTINUITY IN AGRICULTURAL POLICY); 2) STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS ROLE IN ABSORBING INCREASING LABOR FORCE; 3) THE ROLE OF MARKETING AND THE MARKET MECHANISM; 4) STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS IN THE USE OF RESOURCES (ESPECIALLY THE PROBLEM OF UNEQUAL ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES); 5) THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY, AND 6) POLICIES TO ACHIEVE BETTER INCOME DISTRIBUTION. IGLESIAS ENDED UP HIS PRESENTATION BY SUBMITTING THAT THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR MUST BE A FUNDAMENTAL PIVOT FOR DEVELOPMENT. ALSO, HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO DOUBLE THE SUPPLY OF JOBS IN THE REGION BY THE YEAR 2000. FINALLY, HE REFERRED TO THE CLOSE LINKS THESE TWO GOALS HAVE WITH THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) ESPECIALLY AS IT REFERS TO INTERNATIONAL PRICE STABILITY AND TRADE LIBERALIZATION.

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4. MR. HERNAN SANTA CRUZ, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAO FOR WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LIKEWISE MADE INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT REITERATING SOME POINTS MADE BY IGLESIAS, REFERRED TO THE PROBLEM OF ALLEVIATING POVERTY WORLDWIDE, ENUMERATED THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE, AND REPORTED UPON THE CURRENT STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT ABOUT 50 SECTORAL REPORTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE AND THAT RESPONSE BY LA COUNTRIES HAS BEEN POOR -- COUNTRY PAPERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM 4 COUNTRIES AND ARE EXPECTED FROM 4 MORE IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. SANTA CRUZ MENTIONED NEED TO ADDRESS ROLE OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT, A POINT SUPPORTED BY URUGUAY IN DISCUSSION.

5. DISCUSSION SESSIONS WERE BRIEF AND CONSISTED MOSTLY OF DELEGATES ITERATING THEIR INTEREST, PAST NATIONAL ACTIONS, AND CURRENT NEEDS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED LATE, SO MOST DELEGATIONS

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MADE LITTLE REFERENCE TO THEIR CONTENT OTHER THAN TO INDICATE GENERAL SUPPORT. ONLY SURPRISE WAS ARGENTINA'S STRONG STATEMENT TAKING ISSUE WITH CONTENTS OF CEPAL/FAO BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR "LACK OF OBJECTIVITY" AND

"BLATANT IDEOLOGICAL COMPROMISE," ESPECIALLY IN RESPECT TO AGRARIAN REFORM. ARGENTINE STATEMENT WAS AGREED TO BE ANNEXED TO ADOPTED REPORT. EDRO MORAL OPEZ, ASSISTANT DG OF FAO AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR LATIN AMERICA, PRESENTED STATEMENT ON MOST RELEVANT ASPECTS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF LA REGION, STRESSING HIS CONCERN AT PERSISTENCE OF UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS IN LA RURAL ENVIRONMENT AND SUMMING UP POSSIBLE CAUSES. HIS SPEECH CAME AT END OF DISCUSSIONS AND ITSELF EVOKED NO DISCUSSION. TEXTS OF SPEECHES BY IGLESIAS, SANTA CRUZ AND MORAL LPEZ WERE DISTRIBUTED AND WILL BE HAND-CARRIED BY RETURNING DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON.

7. DRAFTING COMMITTEE BOTH SUMMARIZED DISCUSSIONS AND PREPARED RECOMMENDATIONS IN FORM OF RESOLUTION TO FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE. OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF RESOLUTION FOLLOW:

"RECOMMENDS: 1. THAT THE STATEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS ON AGRARIAN REFORM, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND OVERALL DEVELOPMENT ADOPTED WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATE, CONSTITUTE THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE ASPIRATIONS AND THE FOCUS WHICH SHOULD GUIDE THE EFFORTS MADE BY LATIN AMERICA IN THIS MATTER.

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2. THAT IT REAFFIRMS THE CONTENTS OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE THIRTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA, WHICH LAYS DOWN THAT IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, AGRARIAN REFORM MUST BE A PRE-REQUISITE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. THAT IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES FOR AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES MUST BE PURSUED:
I) TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR A SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT IN THE SOCIAL WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RURAL POPULATION, COMBATING THE CAUSES OF POVERTY IN ORDER TO ERADICATE IT;
II) TO ENSURE THE SOVEREIGN RATIONAL AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR POTENTIAL AND WITH THE SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE POPULATION, AND
III) TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS WHICH WILL GUARANTEE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION BY THE RURAL POPULATION IN

THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL LIFE
OF THE COUNTRY.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES FOR AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT MUST THEREFORE BE OF NATIONAL SCOPE AND BE
GEARED CLEARLY AND SPECIFICALLY TOWARDS:

I) FAIR AND RATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OR REDISTRIBUTION
OF THE PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES, MAINLY THE LAND AND THE
USE OF WATER;

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II) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF INCOMES;
III) INCREASE OF PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY;
IV) ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE PEASANTS;
V) INCREASE OF PERMANENT AND FAIRLY REMUNERATED
EMPLOYMENT; AND
VI) IMPROVEMENT OF CULTURAL AND NUTRITIONAL LEVELS.

4. THAT THE ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES ADOPTED
BY COUNTRIES IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND
SOVEREIGNTY MUST HAVE A CONCEPTUAL BASIS PROVIDED BY THE
STATEMENTS ALREADY APPROVED AND BY A NUCLEUS OF COMMON
OBJECTIVES:

I) TO CARRY OUT STRUCTUREAL REFORMS OR/ACTIVITIES WHICH
WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE REAL ROOT CAUSES OF

THE RURAL PROBLEM;

II) TO ACCOMPANY REFORMS IN THE AGRARIAN AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS BY SIMILAR REFORMS IN THE OTHER SECTORS

OF THE ECONOMY AND IN SOCIETY;

III) TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN RURAL AND

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GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT, POINTING OUT THE FUNCTIONS FILLED BY THIS SECTOR IN THE ECONOMY, WITH A VIEW TO REORIENTING PUBLIC INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES AND CREATING THE NECESSARY STIMULUS FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT;

IV) TO GENERATE AND ADAPT FARM TECHNOLOGY IN THE LIGHT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS INVOLVED BY EACH TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION;

V) TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT MORE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION BY THE RURAL POPULATION, INCLUDING WOMEN AND THE YOUNG;

VI) TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE RURAL AREAS LAYING EMPHASIS ONNING AND OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE RURAL SECTOR;

VII) TO RATIONALIZE AND INTEGRATE ORGANICALLY THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE PUBLIC APPARATUS SO THAT THE STATE CAN FULFILL ITS ROLE EFFICIENTLY;

VIII) TO PROMOTE ACTIONS THAT WILL ENABLE THE NATIONAL ECONOMIES TO BE INSERTED IN A FAIR AND HARMONIOUS WAY AND RECIPROCAL INTERESTS TO BE BETTER ATTENDED TO IN THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER;

IX) TO SEEK NEW, DYNAMIC AND IMAGINATIVE FORMS OF ACTION FOR INTRAREGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD AND IN OTHER RURAL ACTIVITIES; AND

X) TO GIVE GREATER COHERENCE AND CONTINUITY TO POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS OF AGRARIAN REFORM AND SUPPORT TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, IN ORDER TO TAKE MORE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRODUCTION POTENTIAL IN TERMS OF THE SOCIAL ASPECTS PURSUED AND THE RECOGNIZED PRIORITY TO BE ACCORDED TO DEPRESSED AREAS AND EMARGINATED GROUPS.

5. THAT IT REAFFIRMS THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY

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THE LA COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND THE NEED FOR THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS EXPORTED BY THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION TO HAVE APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS OF ACCESS, EQUITABLE AND REMUNERATIVE PRICES AND MORE

FAVORABLE TREATMENT ON IMPORTING MARKETS, IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE JUST ASPIRATIONS OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC ORDER."
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Message Attributes

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